

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method of supplying information, comprising:
a data updating step in which data stored in an open storage area allowed to be freely accessed via a network is replaced with update data at a specified time;

a data backing-up step in which a retrieval file name is produced by adding data, which represents a date and time when updating should be performed, to the file name of said update data, said file name is assigned to backup data produced from said update data, and said backup data is saved in a retrieval storage area; and

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a retrieving step in which backup data having a file name corresponding to an updating time specified via said network is retrieved from said retrieval storage area, and the retrieved data is transferred via said network to a client which has requested said data.

2. A method of supplying information, according to Claim 1, wherein access to said retrieval storage area via said network is limited.

3. A method of supplying information, according to Claim 2, wherein said open storage area and said retrieval storage area are formed in different directories of the same storage device.

4. A method of supplying information, according to Claim 2, wherein said data backing-up step produces backup data by coping said update data, assigns said retrieval file name to said backup data, and stores it in said retrieval storage area which is limited in access via said network.

5. A method of supplying information, according to Claim 2, wherein said data backing-up step produces difference data with respect to data stored in said open storage area and stores said difference data as backup data in said retrieval storage area which is limited in access via said network.

6. A method of supplying information, according to Claim 2, wherein said retrieving step retrieves backup data having a file name added with data representing date and time closest to said updating time specified via said network.

7. A method of supplying information, according to Claim 1, wherein:

said network includes the Internet;

said data updating step, said data backing-up step, and said retrieving step are performed by a WWW (World Wide Web) server which supplies a Web page via said Internet; and

said update data and said backup data include an index file

13. A storage medium on which an information supplying program is stored, said information supplying program comprising:

a data updating step in which data stored in an open storage area allowed to be freely accessed via a network is replaced with update data at a specified time;

a data backing-up step in which a retrieval file name is produced by adding data, which represents a date and time when updating should be performed, to the file name of said update data, said file name is assigned to backup data produced from said update data, and said backup data is saved in a retrieval storage area; and

a retrieving step in which backup data having a file name corresponding to an updating time specified via said network is retrieved from said retrieval storage area, and the retrieved data is transferred via said network to a client which has requested said data.

14. A storage medium on which an information supplying program is stored, according to Claim 13, said information supplying program further comprising an automatic updating step in which at a predetermined time of each day, a retrieval file name having added data representing an updating time coincident with the current time is retrieved from said retrieval storage

area, and update data having the retrieval file name found is written into said open storage area in an overwriting fashion.

15. An information supplying apparatus, comprising:

a data updating apparatus for replacing data stored in an open storage area, which is allowed to be freely accessed via a network, with update data at a specified time;

a data backing-up apparatus for producing a retrieval file name by adding data, which represents a date and time when updating should be performed, to the file name of said update data, assigning said retrieval file name to the backup data produced from said update data, and saving said backup data in a retrieval storage area; and

a retrieving apparatus for searching said retrieval storage area for backup data having a file name corresponding to an updating time specified via said network and transferring the retrieved data via said network to a client which has requested said data.

16. An information supplying apparatus, according to Claim 15, further comprising an automatic updating apparatus for, at a predetermined time of each day, retrieving a retrieval file name having added data representing an updating time coincident with the current time from said retrieval storage area, and writing update data having the retrieval file name found into

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